



**3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command
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Soldiers at Marez release music album to honor fallen comrades

LIBERTY

By Capt. Natalia Mercedes-Williams
18th CSSB Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ-EAST, Iraq — For Washington Guardsman Staff Sgt. Erik Burch, composing and singing religious songs is a way to cope with his deployment in Iraq.

Burch, Alpha Co., 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, along with three other Soldiers, produced a CD of original and standard Christian songs at the Liberty Chapel. The “Out of Mosul” compact disk captures a moment in time where worshipers come together during the chapel’s services to honor fallen Soldiers.

“The idea for the CD came about Christmas Day after Maj. John Pryor was killed leaving Mass,” said Burch, a Vancouver, Wash., native.

Burch, along with Spc. Emery Lee, Alpha Co., 2-146 FA, a native of Lockhart, Texas; Sgt. Chance Crow, 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, a native of Midland, Texas; and Sgt. Rick Hunter, Headquarters and Headquarters Btry., 2-146 FA, a native of Kent, Wash., spearheaded the project.

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“The creation of music and expression of our faith is the way we fellowship with our comrades,” said Burch. “The CD was a goal we set that helped time go by and gave further meaning to our mission.”

For more information about the album, go to <http://soundclick.com/libertyexpires>.

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Soldiers at Contingency Operating Site Marez-East produced a CD of original and standard Christian songs to honor fallen comrades. The “Out of Mosul” album, which was released May 1, captures a moment in time where worshipers come together during

services at the Liberty Chapel, Marez-East, Iraq. (From left to right) Staff Sgt. Erik Burch, Alpha Co., 2nd Battalion, 146 Field Artillery, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, and Vancouver, Wash., native; Spc. Emery Lee, Alpha Co., 2-146 FA, and Lockhart, Texas, native; Sgt. Rick Hunter, Headquarters and Headquarters Btry., 2-146 FA, and Kent, Wash., native; and (seated) Sgt. Chance Crow, 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, and Midland, Texas, native. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class JennyAnne Canlas)